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BY HARRY KELLY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, JUNE 17 (AP)—THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IS NOT DUCKING A LOOMING SENATE BATTLE OVER SUPERVISION OF THE SPY AGENCY.

W. F. RABORN, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY, HAS INFORMED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE IT "SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION"—BUT WOULD NOT DISCLOSE "SOURCES AND METHODS."

AND THAT, HE SAID IN A LETTER WEDNESDAY TO CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., WAS THE ONLY KIND OF QUESTION THE COMMITTEE ASKED THAT HE REFUSED TO ANSWER AT A FEBRUARY BRIEFING THAT HELPED TRIGGER THE CLASH OVER WHO SUPERVISES CLOAK AND DAGGER ACTIVITIES.

THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN RABORN AND FULBRIGHT WAS INTERPRETED AS PROBABLY KILLING THE LAST CHANCE FOR A COMPROMISE THAT WOULD AVERT A FLOOR FIGHT ON THE TOUCHY ISSUE.

RETIRED ADM. RABORN PUT IT DIPLOMATICALLY: "I HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED, ONCE BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE, THAT SENATE SUPERVISION OF THE AGENCY (CIA) SEEMS TO BE ONE WHICH THE SENATE ITSELF WOULD WANT TO RESOLVE."

IN ATTEMPTING TO KEEP THE SENATE FROM RESOLVING IT WITH A POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING FLOOR FIGHT, SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANFIELD, D-MONT., HAS TRIED TO WORK OUT A NUMBER OF COMPROMISES.

CPYRIGHT FULBRIGHT'S GROUP HAS ARGUED THAT BECAUSE OF ITS JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN RELATIONS IT SHOULD HAVE SOME ROLE IN OVERSEEING ACTIVITIES OF THE BIG INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

HE AND SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE DISTURBED WHEN RABORN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE FEBRUARY BRIEFING THAT HE DID NOT FEEL HE COULD GIVE THEM AS DETAILED INFORMATION AS HE GIVES THE SENATE'S EXECUTIVE CIA WATCHDOG SUBCOMMITTEE.

THAT COMMITTEE, HEADED BY CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, OPPOSES A RESOLUTION APPROVED BY FULBRIGHT'S GROUP TO ADD THREE OF ITS MEMBERS TO RUSSELL'S SEVEN-MAN PANEL.

IN WHAT APPARENTLY WAS A LAST-CHANCE COMPROMISE MOVE, FULBRIGHT WROTE RABORN MONDAY AND SAID "IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED" THAT HE FIND OUT WHETHER THE CIA WOULD GIVE ITS RECOGNITION TO A CIA SUBCOMMITTEE SET UP BY THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

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IN THE RESPONSE TWO DAYS LATER RABORN SAID OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING:

"THE QUESTIONS TO WHICH I STATED I WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND WERE QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY AS TO 'SOURCES AND METHODS,'" RATHER THAN TO SUBSTANTIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION."

RABORN SAID IN DECLINING TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS HE WAS FOLLOWING PAST PRACTICE AND ADDED:

"THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO MY UNDERSTANDING, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENATE OVERSIGHT OF CIA AND WAS THUS THE SENATE BODY TO BE SO INFORMED."

RABORN SUGGESTED THAT IF THIS PRACTICE WAS TO BE CHANGED THE SENATE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE IT.

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